

Summary Minutes of the
Delta Protection Commission
Thursday, July 27, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Flag Salute

Chairman McGowan called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman McGowan, Vice Chairman Ferguson, Commissioners Cabaldon, Calone, Johnson, Kelly, Morey, Nottoli, Perez, Reagan, Sanders, Scriven, Shaffer, van Loben Sels, Eddie Woodruff for Commissioner Simonsen, and Roberta Goulart for Commissioner Piepho.

Absent: Commissioners Beckman, Ornellas, Piepho, Simonsen and Wilson.

3. Public Comment: Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission. Comments also welcome as agenda items are discussed

Peggy Bohl, Clarksburg, said that she attended the Delta Visioning conference in Stockton on June 7-8. She thanked Linda Fiack for helping her secure a scholarship for the conference. Ms. Bohl also said that her group, the Concerned Citizens for the Sacramento, San Joaquin Delta has submitted comments on the I-5/Cosumnes River Boulevard Interchange project and the Courtland Sewer Project.

CONSENT AGENDA – Items 4-17

Commissioner Johnson requested that agenda item #7 be place on the regular agenda to add the name of Harold Flood to the Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee list.

Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the consent agenda; Commissioner Morey seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Approve Refinement of Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee Membership; to Effectively Represent Delta "Residents and Stakeholders"

Commissioner Johnson asked that Harold Flood's name be added to the RCAC membership listing.

18. Receive Informational Presentation on Delta Conservation Plan, including opportunities for coordination with local Conservation Planning Programs.

Linda Fiack reported that Resources Undersecretary Karen Scarborough has been tasked to put together a Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The idea is to have an aquatic Delta Conservation Plan and Undersecretary Scarborough convened a meeting with representatives from the five Delta

counties that have HCP/NCCP's already in progress to apprise them of the concept. Ms. Fiack also reported that Undersecretary Scarborough hopes to have the plan 75 percent complete by December 2007; with the total process to be 2-5 years to include CEQA and NEPA.

Commissioner Reagan stated that the Solano County Water Agency has a Plan, however it is not countywide

19. Receive Informational Update on State Delta Vision Process /Recap of Delta Vision Conference

Ms. Fiack reported that the process was underway for a State Delta Vision. She said that the Governor has not issued a formal Executive Order to develop a long-term Delta Vision; however the updated draft vision should be released in a few weeks.

Commissioner Kelly asked if the process was losing traction and if there had been a push to involve the Department of Business Transportation and Housing. Ms. Fiack responded that the process was not losing traction; however, BT&H brings land use and the Department of Food and Agriculture might be brought into the mix.

Commissioner Reagan said that he was amazed by how many opinions there were presented at the Delta conference, and by the individuals on the breakout panels.

Vice Chair Ferguson said that he felt that everyone seemed to tiptoe around "the issue" of the Delta and its future. He further said that the issue must be addressed.

Ms. Fiack said that the Peripheral Canal was mentioned as an elephant in the room. She said she wanted to see more representation from the agricultural community.

20. Receive Informational Presentation on Delta Emergency Response and Preparedness Summit Facilitated by the Chair of the Commission, and Staff, with Support from the Center for Collaborative Policy, Pursuant to Commission Direction and Authorization on January 26, 2006 and March 23, 2006.

Adam Sutkis reported that he worked with the five Delta County Office of Emergency Services to identify issues, successes and challenges. Mr. Sutkis said that some of the challenges that the counties spoke about are the county boundary lines. He said that key elements are mass care and shelter, asset management, power between county lines. Additionally, other challenges include how to help special needs people and pets. Mr. Sutkis said there is a need for a strategic plan for the Delta.

Commissioner van Loben Sels asked Mr. Sutkis how he envisioned getting services to trickle down to those who will actually perform the flood fighting. Ms. Fiack responded that the first step to take is to have another event in six months time to discuss those issues.

Commissioner Cabaldon said he is a huge skeptic of the plan as there is no attention to the core focus. He also said that the problem with collaboration between the counties is that it is not free and it would be burdensome. He said he is not convinced, as it needs to be clear about compelling need. He urged the Commission to tread carefully and not get too far off its mission.

Chair McGowan suggested that the issue be broken down to see who needs to be involved. He also said that it should be asked, what is the role of the DPC; because, while Ms. Fiack does a good job in reaching other jurisdictions, it is not the role of the Commission to take up the slack of local governments.

Eddie Woodruff stated that he agreed with Commission Cabaldon. He said the Commission should look at this as a realist and not as a visionary, as resources would go to the areas with the strongest political pull. He said he found the subject frustrating and fascinating; however, the Commission should be prepared for what happens.

Commissioner Kelly stated that the Commission should breakdown the issue and be clear about what it wants to do versus what it can do.

Ms. Fiack said that the intent is to initiate a meeting with the Commission Chair, Board of Supervisors, and County Administrative Offices' staff to introduce the concept to see if there is commitment for OES staff to have a coordinated effort. Ms. Fiack also reminded the Commission to review the table of contents of the Management Plan where it recommends that the Commission facilitate Delta-wide discussions.

Commissioner Reagan said that the Council of Governments and State agencies should be together for the effort. He asked who, if not the DPC should be involved. He said that the Commission should ask the State OES to run an exercise on the DWR model.

Commissioner Sanders suggested that the Commission develop phasing to make parts fit to look at the order of task to establish a roadmap.

Commissioner Scriven said that the Reclamation Districts (RD's) serve as the first line of defense in an emergency, and he wanted to see more discussion on what the RD's face and their needs.

Ms Goulart said she was nervous in terms of who's on first, and we are not there yet; however, she said she saw no harm in asking OES to look at the Delta.

Commissioner Reagan moved that the Commission ask the State OES to run an exercise using the DWR model; the motion was not seconded. The motion did not pass.

21. Receive Information Update on Sough Delta Improvements Program and North Delta Improvements Program

Commissioner Kelly reported that Commissioner van Loben Sels brought to the attention of the Commission that source funding for the DWR program to provide floodway improvements on Staten Island and McCormick William Tract had been discontinued and that funding from the Bureau of Reclamation for North Delta Improvements would not be increased. However, after further discussion at DWR, it has been determined that the EIR will come out and public comments will be taken. There is no date as to when the public draft will be out.

Commissioner van Loben Sels thanked Commissioner Kelly and Ms. Fiack for elevating the project to the front lines.

Ms. Goulart asked for clarification on who owned the land. Commissioner Kelly responded that the land is currently owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC); however, TNC who does not want to be the long-term owner. Ms. Fiack also responded that she had met with the Director of TNC to work out getting another owner for the long term.

Commissioner Kelly reported that DWR was wrapping up comments on the South Delta Improvement Project. She said the DWR hoped to have the final EIR/EIS by the end of August or the beginning of September 2006

22. Receive Information on Farm Bill Listening Session.

Commissioner Shaffer reported that A.G. Kawamura has invited the public to a Farm Bill Listening Session on August 1, 2006. He said that it is hoped the comments will come out by the end of October.

23. Receive Update on Clarksburg Old Sugar Mil Project and Take Action, if Timing is Determined to Appropriate.

Ms. Fiack reported that the Sugar Mil project would be heard by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on September 12, 2006.

24. Commissioner Comments/Announcements.

There were no Commissioner Announcements.

25. CLOSED SESSION

Chairman McGowan announced that the Commission would convene, and the Commission did convene, in closed session to discuss the "closed session" item listed on the agenda (Annual Employee Performance Review: Executive Director).

26. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 in the memory of Hal Schell and Don F. Nottoli.

The next meeting will be held September 28, 2006.